

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the application, and for the suggestions for amending the application. However, in view of the foregoing amendments, and the remarks that follow, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112:

In response to the Office Action, claims 20, 23, and 26 have been amended to correct an obvious typographical error in the claims. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of those claims.

Art Rejections:

Claims 1-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,179,650, hereinafter Fukui. In response to the arguments filed on October 15, 2003, the Examiner argued that Fukui does not teach or suggest extracting a portion of an image and processing the extracted portion. The Examiner points to three sections in Fukui and alleges that Fukui teaches that portions of the entire image are extracted and processed.

Although the cited portions of Fukui indicate that different portions of Fukui are processed differently from each other, Fukui teaches that the entire document is scanned. Accordingly, Fukui does not extract less than an entire portion of the document, and reconstruct it into a specific shape based on the extracted portion which is less than the entire image.

To more clearly distinguish the present invention from Fukui, each of the independent claims has been amended to clarify that the extracting means extracts one or more document blocks, and the reconstruction means reconstructs the document blocks in a specific shape based on the extracted document blocks, wherein the reconstructed document blocks are together less than the entire image. Such amendments clearly distinguish the present invention from Fukui in that Fukui does not reconstruct the image into a specific shape using less than the entire image.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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